



***Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council  
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 201  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Toll-Free 1-877-229-2344***

**Your Comments Requested on Proposed Regulations for 2006  
Alaska Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest**

For Immediate Release  
September 22, 2005

Contact: Doug Alcorn, Alaska Co-  
Management Council, 907/786-3545

Today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a Proposed Rule which regulates the 2006 Alaska Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest. The Rule, a product of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (Council), sets dates when harvesting can occur, lists species that can be taken, describes means and methods of take that are prohibited, and details areas of the state where residents are eligible to participate. Below is a summary of the proposed changes from the 2006 harvest regulations:

- 1) Continue a provision to allow possession and subsistence use of up to 20 yellow-billed loons inadvertently caught in subsistence fishing (gill) nets on the North Slope;
- 2) Add a Special Black Brant Season Closure: August 16 - August 31, only in Izembek and Moffet lagoons;
- 3) Under the Methods and Means Section: Prohibit use of private or chartered aircraft for hunting or transporting hunters, except for transportation between community airstrips (Unit 18, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region only);
- 4) Add a Special Black Brant and Cackling Goose Season Hunting Closure Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region Only): from the period when egg laying begins until young birds are fledged with the closure dates to be announced by the Alaska Regional Director or his designee, after consultation with field biologists, the Association of Village Council President's Waterfowl Conservation Committee; and
- 5) Add a Special Area Closure: The following goose colonies are closed to all hunting and egg gathering from the period the initiation of nesting until young birds are fledged:
  - Kokechik Bay Colony - bounded by 61.61°N to 61.67°N and 165.83°W to 166.08°W
  - Tutakoke River Colony - bounded by 61.20°N to 61.28°N and 165.08°W to 165.13°W
  - Kigigak Island Colony – bounded by island's edge
  - Baird Peninsula Colony - bounded by 60.87°N to 60.91°N and 164.65°W to 165.80°W
  - Baird Island Colony – bounded by island's edge

Closure dates to be announced by the Alaska Regional Director or his designee, after consultation with field biologists, the Association of Village Council President's Waterfowl Conservation Committee.

The Council, which includes representatives from the Alaska Native community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acting as equal partners, was formed with the specific purpose of developing "recommendations related to the spring/summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds."

These regulations proposed for 2006 are part of an annual process which the Council uses to refine the harvest parameters, as needed. The full text of the Proposed Rule is available on the internet at (<http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/regulations.htm> ). Interested parties without access to the internet can receive a copy by calling (toll-free 1-877-229-2344, William Ostrand). Public comments on the Rule will be accepted through **November 21, 2005**. The Final Rule, as advised by comments received on the Proposed Rule, will be published upon conclusion of the 60-day comment period.

The Alaska Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest is scheduled to open on April 2, 2006, but only if the Final Rule is published in the Federal Register by then. The publication of the Final Rule will be followed by a mail-out distribution of the 2006 Harvest Regulations Booklets by the Service.

---

*Partner Members: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, Copper River Native Association, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kawerak Inc, Maniilaq Association, North Slope Borough, Tanana Chiefs Conference*